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CFE (Taiwan file)



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

SECRET

November 28, 1969

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Highlights of Symington Subcommittee Session on
the Republic of China (3), November 26, 1969

DISTRIBUTION:

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S/S

EA - Ambassador Green
- Ambassador McConaughy
- Ambassador Brown
- Mr. Moore

EA/ROC - Mr. Shoesmith

EA/ACA - Mr. Kreisberg

L - Mr. Stevenson

L/EA - Mr. Futterman

PM - Mr. Spiers

PM/JW - Mr. Wolf

S/PC - Mr. Cargo

- Mr. Seligmann

H - Ambassador Torbert

WH - Mr. Ehrlichman

- Mr. Mollenhoff

NSC - Mr. Lehman

DOD - Mr. French

- Mr. Knaur

CIA

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Pursuant to arrangements made with White House concurrence by the Department with Senator Symington, Ambassador McConaughy appeared unaccompanied by other witnesses before

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the Subcommittee at 2:30 p.m. to testify in regard to sensitive intelligence matters in the understanding that a single copy of the transcript would be made and retained in the custody of the Department. It was further understood that a record would be returned to the Subcommittee containing those portions which might be made public.

Before the proceedings started, Senator Symington said he would undertake to sanitize the record of the previous two days to eliminate much of the material involved in one or two sharp exchanges that took place, particularly with Senator Fulbright. He said he would edit the record "as much in your favor as in ours." The Chairman remarked that he had known Senator Fulbright a good many years, but there were times when he was "very intense."

Ambassador McConaughy, in response to an initial question from Counsel about overflights of the Chinese mainland, proceeded to give a detailed description of activities bearing on this question and other sensitive matters. He assured Counsel that the US remained in control of any operations in which it had a hand. He also indicated that the Ambassador was informed in general/ⁱⁿ regard to all sensitive programs and received full reports on them, although basic policy decisions were made in Washington.

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Senator Symington expressed appreciation for the forthcoming remarks of the Ambassador. Senator Fulbright, who appeared quite intense, asked a number of questions intended to show that our actions in Taiwan led the Chinese Communists to feel that they were subject to US aggressive tactics. He again attempted to engage in a protracted discussion of Vietnam. Senator Symington interrupted to indicate the discussion was getting off course and that he expected ambassadors to support the Administration's policy. Senator Aiken also tried to divert the discussion by inquiring about oil deposits in China, leading to a comment by Senator Symington that the discovery of extensive oil deposits could solve much of China's political problems.

Returning to a subject discussed earlier in the proceedings, Counsel asked in what circumstances US aircraft on Taiwan would shoot down Chinese Communist aircraft in the Taiwan Strait. He did not, however, press for an answer, but indicated he wished to have the question on record in the event the Ambassador changed his mind and wished to provide a response.

The session ended at about 3:30 p.m.

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